

EU AI Act Compliance Checklist for SMEs

A practical, five-step starting point plus a 2026-2028 deadline tracker. From AI Act Ready (Immersible Ltd).

[] 1. Inventory

List every AI system you develop, buy or use - owner, vendor, data used, purpose.

[] 2. Classify risk

Tag each system: prohibited, high-risk, limited-risk (transparency) or minimal-risk.

[] 3. Transparency (from 2 Aug 2026)

Tell people when they interact with AI; label AI-generated or manipulated content (Article 50).

[] 4. Governance

Acceptable-use policy, clear ownership and a simple risk process for systems that need it.

[] 5. Evidence

Keep inventory, classifications, policies and training records - the artefacts buyers and regulators ask for.

Deadline tracker (2026-2028)

Date	What applies
2 Feb 2025	Prohibited-practice bans + AI-literacy duty (Article 4)
2 Aug 2025	GPAI provider obligations + governance + penalties
2 Aug 2026	Article 50 transparency obligations (live date for most orgs)
2 Dec 2027*	High-risk Annex III obligations (provisional, Digital Omnibus)
2 Aug 2028*	High-risk product-embedded (Annex I) obligations (provisional)

*Provisional dates deferred under the Digital Omnibus; confirm against the EC timeline before relying on them.

aiactready.co.uk - Free exposure check: aiactready.co.uk/exposure-check.html